

Filing assistance

Victim/Witness Assistance Centers in every county have trained staff to assist victims in applying for compensation under VCP.

The law allows VCP to pay up to \$500 for an attorney to assist you in the application process. Attorney fees are not subtracted from your payment. The law prohibits attorneys from charging, demanding, receiving, or collecting any amount for their services, except those paid by VCP.

More information

VCP Customer Services Unit

1-800-777-9229

**Hearing impaired, please call
the California Relay Service at
1-800-735-2929**

All Languages Accommodated
www.boc.ca.gov

The district attorney's office or law enforcement in your county (see the white *Government Pages* of your local telephone directory) may refer you to the nearest Victim/Witness Assistance Center

or

Victims of Crime Resource Center
1-800-VICTIMS (1-800-842-8467)

Please consult the *Crisis Intervention Service* section in the yellow pages of your local telephone book for information or help concerning:

Child abuse
Domestic abuse
Sexual assault
Suicide prevention

Board Members

Clothilde V. Hewlett/Interim Director
Department of General Services
Chairman of the Board

Kathleen Connell/State Controller
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to the Governor/Board Member

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Victim Compensation
& Government Claims Board



Mental Health Benefits for Victims of Crime



Note: This brochure is intended to provide general information *only*. It does not include all of the requirements of the Victim Compensation Program. **Revised January 2002**



Do you or someone you know need help with emotional trauma caused by a violent crime? Then you should know about the assistance available to victims for outpatient mental health counseling.

Dear Californians:

No one deserves to suffer from the physical, emotional, and financial costs of being a crime victim.

If you have been a victim of a crime, the State Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board and its network of victim advocates and providers throughout the state can help you recover financially. This program is funded from fines and fees paid by offenders, not California taxpayers.

Please use this brochure to learn about this important program or contact the Board at 1-800-777-9229 for more information.

Sincerely,


GRAY DAVIS
Governor of California

Who is eligible?

A person who suffers an injury or the threat of injury as a result of a crime in California.

A California resident who suffers an injury or the threat of injury as a result of a crime or terrorism wherever it takes place.

Residents of the United States who are:

Parents, siblings, spouses, children, grandparents, or grandchildren of persons who suffer an injury or are threatened with injury during a crime or die as a result of a crime may be eligible.

Another family member of the victim, including the victim's fiancé(e), if he or she witnessed the crime.

A person living in the victim's household at the time of the crime or who had lived with the victim for at least two years in a relationship similar to a spouse, child, parent, or sibling of the victim.

Someone who becomes the primary caretaker of a minor victim after the crime.

Any of these individuals who are not residents of the United States may be eligible for mental health counseling.

General requirements

You must cooperate with the police and court officials to arrest and prosecute the offender.

You must cooperate with the Victim Compensation Program (VCP) or its representative(s) to verify your application.

You cannot have contributed to nor participated in the crime.

You first must submit your expenses to your insurance company, HMO, or other insurance plan. VCP will pay only expenses that cannot be covered by some other source of funding.

How do I apply?

You must file a VCP application within one year of the crime.

For a victim under age 18 on the date of the crime, the application *must* be filed before the victim's 19th

birthday (or 21st birthday, if you can show good cause for the delay).

Limited circumstances may allow more time to file an application. For more information, call Board representatives.

The maximum amount that can be paid may vary, and certain restrictions apply. Contact VCP staff for information on covered services and maximum reimbursement rates.

Provider & reimbursement information

Providers who accept payment from VCP for a service are accepting the rate established by VCP as payment-in-full. Counseling services may be reimbursed only if provided by any of the following:

- ☐ Licensed psychiatrists and licensed clinical psychologists
- ☐ Licensed clinical social workers and marriage and family therapists
- ☐ Registered psychologists, psychological assistants, associate clinical social workers, and marriage and family therapist interns, and certain registered psychological interns who meet registration and supervision requirements
- ☐ Psychiatric mental health nurse
- ☐ Clinical nurse specialists with a specialty in psychiatric mental health nursing
- ☐ Rape crisis peer counselors
- ☐ Child life specialists
- ☐ Out-of-state mental health providers who have professional credentials comparable to California providers
- ☐ Family therapy is reimbursed at individual session rates
- ☐ Group therapy is reimbursed at 40 percent of the individual session rates